

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN:MR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207026

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, LE, IS, FR

SUBJECT: UNIFIL: PROSPECTIVE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
SECRETARY GENERAL

1. USUN HAS LEARNED THAT SYG WALDHEIM AND SOME OF HIS
PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING APPOINTMENT
OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR UNIFIL. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, LITTLE THOUGHT
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HIS DUTIES AND TENURE OR WHETHER
HIS APPOINTMENT WOULD REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL. AT CORE OF WHAT WALDHEIM AND HIS
ASSOCIATES HAVE IN MIND IS THAT BY INTRODUCING ON THE
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SCENE A PERSONAGE WITH STATUS TO COMMAND ATTENTION OF
LEBANESE AND ISRAELIS IT MIGHT PROVE POSSIBLE TO
ADVANCE OBJECTIVES OF SC RESOLUTION 425 BY NEGOTIATING
THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND IMPROVING
UNIFIL'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT INTO VILLAGES (MUSLIM
AND HOPEFULLY CHRISTIAN) ALONG LEBANESE/ISRAELI
FRONTIER. IDEA IS ONE WHICH WE ON OCCASION HAVE TOYED

WITH AND HAVE REVIEWED INFORMALLY WITH UN SECRETARIAT,
BUT WITHOUT PRESSING THE MATTER.

2. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS SEEM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
IN ATTRACTING A FRENCHMAN TO THE JOB BECAUSE OF FRANCE'S
ROLE IN UNIFIL AND IN LEBANON. COUVE DE MURVILLE IS
ONE PERSON MENTIONED. HE CARRIES, HOWEVER, THE BURDEN
OF DE GAULLE'S REVERSAL OF POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST
AND THUS MAY AROUSE ISRAEL'S SUSPICION AND MISTRUST.
WE WOULD WELCOME PARIS' COMMENTS ON SUCH A ROLE FOR
COUVE (AS WELL AS COMMENTS BY OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS).
WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY PARIS' THOUGHTS ON
OTHER FRENCH FIGURES THAT WE MIGHT SUGGEST TO UN
SECRETARIAT. FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SUCH SENIOR RETIRED
FRENCH DIPLOMATS AS DE ROSE AND THE SEYDOUX BROTHERS
AVAILABLE AND ACTIVE? ARE THERE OTHER FRENCHMEN, WITH
POLITICAL POSITIONS SUCH AS COUVE, WHO DO NOT SHARE
HIS SHORTCOMINGS?

VANCE

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